



NLG NEWSLETTER

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CHANGE FOR OUR CHANGE OFFERS PROMOTION OF COIN COLLECTING

Congress Casts Notion Aside for 1992 But May Return Next Year

Suggestions to change the design of American coinage, front or back or both, were shoved aside by the Congress, the result of partisan bickering and a misunderstanding of the real issues.

Last chance for coinage redesign changes to be approved in the 102nd Congress expired during the first week in October, when the House adjourned without considering pending legislation to accomplish that goal.

Not that they didn't reject it previously -- they did -- but some believed that there was the possibility that coinage redesign could creep back to the forefront as part of the last-minute commemorative coin packages that were authorized.

New Commemorative Issues

More commemorative coins were authorized by the 103rd Congress than in any prior term of Congress. Included among the list of approved items are:

● White House Commemorative coinage program (sold out);

● Columbus 500th anniversary commemoratives, sentimentally named the Frank Annunzio Act;

● 1996 Atlanta Olympic Coin commemorative package, named after retiring member of Congress (from Georgia) Doug Barnard.

● Civil War Battlefield Centennial

● World Soccer Cup Program (sponsored by Rep. Esteban Torres, D-Cal.)

Nearly every coin issue is being approved for both an uncirculated and proof issue, and for multiple denominations to be struck by more than one minting facility (Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco or West Point).

Proofs generally outsell uncirculated issues by four or five to one, and Congress has set ceilings rather than focusing on what might actually sell.

The two year Congressional

term just completed saw redesign legislation pass the Senate at least a dozen times, only to be stymied in the House of Representatives.

In an article published in the November 1992 issue of *The Numismatist*, monthly publication of the American Numismatic Association, it is suggested that the individual associated most with the issue--Diane Wolf, former Commissioner of Fine Arts -- has been both the bane, and the existence of the issue.

There seems general agreement in the hobby press that coinage redesign is a potentially exciting issue; it marks the first time in a generation that there is a concept that potentially could generate support for coin collecting.

It is now apparent that the program is to achieve reality, that it will be in another Congress -- starting in 1993. Even then might be too soon for damaged and inflamed egos to be salved.

REDESIGN: An Idea Whose Time Has Not Come of Age

(Cont'd from first page)

There are some compelling reasons why 1993 might nonetheless be the year that coinage redesign moves to the forefront. The 1992 presidential election is the keystone to that issue.

Whether or not there is a change in Administration, both political parties will want to show that 1993 is going to be a time of change.

Perhaps there is no better, or symbolic way to show this, than to make an alteration in the designs that appear on our daily currency.

The year 1993 also is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. A presidential commission has been appointed to find appropriate means of honoring this genius who was a true Renaissance man of the 18th century. (He died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826).

If that commission were to make a late recommendation to honor Jefferson with a numismatic commemorative, it could easily be made simple with the Schlag reverse design for the existing nickel -- depicting Monticello with a three-

quarters profile -- or simply using the one dollar coin (which has overwhelming backing in some quarters) with a new portrait and design to salute Jefferson in a distinctive way.

There may be arguments that this approach is ridiculous, and that there is insufficient time. Or even that the Mint cannot produce enough of the coins in a shortened period.

This is poppycock.

These same tired arguments were made in 1974, when the Treasury fought, tooth and nail, against the possibility of a circulating bicentennial coin proposal.

They were directed to produce quarters for circulating (bearing Jack Ahr's colonial drummer boy design) and did so in record numbers. A whole generation later, these coins still circulate as a tangible reminder of this unusual tribute to 200 years of American freedom.

Congress could, and should, do no less for the 250th anniversary of the birth of the author of the declaration of independence, founder of the University of Virginia, and perhaps the greatest mind in Colonial America.

Two centuries later, President John F. Kennedy invited a group of nearly 100 Nobel Prize winners to dinner at the White House and remarked that they constituted the greatest assemblage of brain power "since Thomas Jefferson dined

at the White House alone".

Leaders this coming year in this fight could well be the Coin Coalition (headed by Jim Benfield) as well as a number of private industry types, and non-profit groups.

To some extent, however, the result will depend on the November elections. But it is an issue that NLG members who write about the field may wish to keep alive in their columns. Not only is it of reader interest, but it is timely and contemporary politics at its best.

NLG Newsletter

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Coins To Cards

By Paul M. Green

"Going, going, gone." That old Mel Allen description of another Yankee home run comes perilously close to describing my transition from writing nearly 15,000 words a week about numismatics to a less hectic and more diverse lifestyle based on baseball cards.

To many, the transition might seem like heresy. To me, it was merely diversification. No freelancer can afford to base their future on one topic, one or two publishers and the no benefits, little security life currently offered a numismatic writer.

Even at the height of my production, back when an article a day was the norm, I knew I couldn't keep up the pace. That's why when visiting Krause Publications one day I was fascinated to learn that there were writing opportunities in yet another childhood hobby, that of collecting baseball cards.

Was the transition difficult? The answer to that question is an emphatic NO. Moreover, it's probably less so today except that now there is more to learn and competition. Even so, if you know coins, you can learn cards and where pay was once a fraction of what you would receive for a coin article, it's now at least as good or better for established writers.

Actually, the baseball, football, hockey, basketball and other sports cards market today is very similar to the coin market of recent times. Words like "slabbing" are creeping into the vocabulary. Grading is a main concern, although much less complex than is found in coins.

I learned quickly that if you can research coins, you can certainly do the same with cards. The only problem is that there are few books and references. That's a problem, but three books later, I can attest it's also an opportunity.

One of the great joys found in cards is that they are now being enjoyed by many of the same people who once inhabited the nation's numismatic bourse floors. Names like Sam LoPresto, Jim Carr and yes, even David Hall are either known or becoming known where sports cards are concerned. They may not be pioneers of the hobby, but they are legitimate news in cards as they once were, or still are, in coins. Moreover, their ranks are growing as a baseball section in a show like Long Beach can sometimes easily be confused for a coin section of five years ago gone to cardboard.



Long Beach brings up another point in that now even the shows are becoming unified. That point will be emphasized when FUN opens its doors to baseball cards in 1992. For the writer who attends that means a lot of potential material in two areas at one show.

Certainly you cannot simply start writing about sports cards, but the transition is much easier than might be expected. In addition to similar methods of research, familiar names and even simultaneous shows, the two markets are becoming increasingly similar, if not related.

Long Beach now stands as the show where the two markets are most often joined, and a surprising percentage of the time a good show in coins is also a good show for baseball cards.

For many, the thought of switching from writing strictly about coins to more diversified areas may seem undesirable. That makes sense to those who view their writing as a hobby or second income.

My addition of baseball cards was at first a refreshing change of pace and an attempt to broaden the markets for my work. I think any full time writer would be well advised to do both. In my case, I was at wits (or at least creative ends) when faced with the prospect of one more "Liberty Seated Dimes - Love Them or Leave Them" article.

Moreover, it took no partic-

Going, Going, Gone...

ular mathematical aptitude to understand that writing for a very limited number of markets was not financially wise especially in a marketplace where raises are rare and freelancers have to complete endlessly with both staff and professional coin dealer writers who often will go to work merely for the sake of the publicity and recognition.

While I can't guarantee what baseball cards or any other second market for your writing will do for you, they are well worth considering.

What started for me as a diversion now enables me to do this article in Key West, 20 feet from our pool and a long way physically and mentally from the pressures I lived with for years of five articles a week.

Paul Green is a writer who has written about coins and coin collecting for many years, and discovered similarities with baseball cards before the rest of us realized that what we had been flipping each summer, and discarding, was really a collectible. This article at least in part was in the last issue of the NLG Newsletter. Because of production problems, only a portion of it was printed.

It is reprinted in its entirety in this issue for reader convenience with the editor's apologies.

Change at Long Beach

Sam LoPresto's Long Beach coin show has an ownership change: Paul Koppenhaver, PNG Executive Director, and

Ron Gillio, PNG President. LoPresto, who has run the show since its inception, remains a consultant to the venture which is headquartered at the Long Beach convention center and is the coin show that all commercial and private shows are measured against.

Further information about the show can be obtained from Koppenhaver or Gillio, who may be contacted at Box 430, Van Nuys CA 91408.

Repeat of a Success

NLG's Donn Pearlman Gets TV Coverage for Coins

Donn Pearlman, who wears many hats including ANA governor, and news anchor for CBS radio in Chicago, is also PNG's public relations director. He put it all together and created an irresistible package last February at the ANA mid-winter convention in Dallas, where he persuaded local and national news media that a nationwide search for an 1894-S dime was real news.

It made CNN (cable network news) and looped around a dozen times every 24 hours for three days. It also was an unqualified success in telling a coin related story to the media at large.

The "hook" of the first story was that here was a coin of which only 24 were struck, and fewer than half were accounted for. PNG said it would pay for the trip to the ANA convention

in Orlando of any lucky person who happened to have one of these \$100,000+ coins.

It sent people scurrying for their pocket change -- improbable as it was that anyone would find something. And then something happened: someone *did* find an 1894-S dime.

The coin was genuine -- it had a known pedigree, but had simply dropped out of sight for a period of almost 20 years. The original seller in the early '70's was none other than Q. David Bowers, back when his firm was Bowers & Ruddy and located in Hollywood, California.

Here was this Rolls Royce of rare coins, which Dave Bowers remembers as being purchased by an individual who had never before -- and never thereafter -- acquired any rare coin from the firm.

It turns out that the buyer was indeed eccentric, and had never before bought a major rarity -- and never again, either -- but had always wanted to own a coin of this calibre.

He heard about the publicity that PNG's Pearlman generated and called information in



Keep Your Phone Number

(from the previous page)

California to find out where the Bowers firm was.

Never mind that everyone in contemporary numismatics knows the saga of Q. David Bowers, easily one of the most prolific writers of our generation, and how he has found happiness, and partnership with Ray Merena, in Wolfboro, N.H.

The television coverage was truly amazing not only did CNN pick up the story, but



so did others -- and by the time of the ANA convention in Orlando, the "old" news was "new" again.

The coin's owner, it turned out, couldn't remember anyone other than the firm's name -- and they're not in California anymore. But a helpful telephone operator knew that there was another Los Angeles dealer -- Superior Galleries -- and as they say, the rest is history.

Ira Goldberg journeyed to the mid-west and met with the owner -- he published the story in *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*, and it makes good reading -- and took the coin for Superior's pre-ANA sale, where it realized six-figures.

Here's a case, though, where the real story -- at least to NLG members -- is in the

story itself, and how one man with a sense of timing, and a good concept, created a bonanza for the coin industry.

What is more startling is that the story re-cycled, and with a coin actually found, made the rounds all over again, giving coin collecting a badly need boost.

NLG owes a deep vote of thanks to Donn Pearlman for this fine effort that benefits all collectors, and all coin writers across the country.

Oh, would every public relations idea conceived work out only half as well as this.

STORIES WANTED: Plea for Help From You

NLG's Newsletter can only be a success if you, the readers, actively participate. We ask you to do this with an article or two.

The article's don't have to be very long -- just of general interest to our readers and your colleagues. Anything from 500 to 750 words is ideal, though we can accept longer or shorter articles.

If you use computers, Word Perfect 5.1 is our medium, though an ASCII disc is also welcome.

Actually, about everything from hand-written articles on foolscap to modern computer-generated stories have been published.

Please add us to your "to do" list today!

When To Bash

By Daniel Fearon

It is hard, at a distance of a few thousand miles to determine when to bash and when it is wiser not to partake. The English, or British, indeed both, have been known to have a good bash from time to time, but by our definition we tend to bash *at* someone or something. An NLG Bash must remain something about which one has heard, but like other forbidden fruits, one has not actually had the pleasure of sharing. Philadelphia in 1969 was the occasion of my first ANA Convention, an event about which I remember little except sitting in intense heat outside the new US Mint listening to some pretty poor, and regrettably long speeches. Other cities and years flash before me, but I was not literate (in the NLG sense), so the bash has always eluded me. Not so the NLG.

In the early 1970's I was working at Spink's, "the oldest established coin business in the world," and publishers of the famous Numismatic Circular, which this year celebrates its prolific numismatist, a prolific writer and, under a gruff exterior, a warm, friendly and helpful man. He lived in an office piled high with books, to which was added one year a gold-painted typewriter of uncertain

antiquity. HL was deeply honoured, but what to do with this trophy? As the year progressed it rose nearer and nearer to the ceiling, gathering suitable quantities of London dust. It was quite impractical that it should have been sent in the first place, and then just when it reached the pinnacle position, it was the time to return it whence it came (who has it now?). It was my introduction to the NLG and the somewhat unorthodox methods of its members and officers.

I am now Managing Director of Glendining's, an auction company that has existed since the turn of the Century.

Throughout those 92 years we have sold endless coins and medals. Some of our catalogues are standard references, others change hands for considerable sums of money, simply on account of their rarity. I joined the firm in 186, following the death of William French, who in turn had taken over from Douglas Glendining, the founder, in 1947. Since then much of my "literature" has been in the composition, and editing of, auction catalogues -- a lot of lots, and lots of words.

There are no house rules to the preparation of catalogues, but it is a discipline. Hans Schulman may be remembered for the number of coins he catalogued as being "almost unique" -- we try to be more precise! Both Schulman and New Netherland's catalogues

developed the long description, the glowing accounts of the colour and tone of a coin, the slightest scuff mark positioned on the coin with mathematical precision, and so on. The numerical grading system has tried to make this obsolete. However the British and continental Europe stick to the traditional grades of FINE, VERY FINE, EXTREMELY FINE and sometimes F.D.C., UNCIRCULATED or AS STRUCK. Each grade leaves room for the coin to have some fault, and it cuts down on the verbiage. "Think of the description as a sentence," was the advice that I was given by Albert Baldwin almost 30 years ago, and it has stood me well.

So to the Bash. For two years now Glendining's has sent over Auction Catalogues to be considered for some sort of mention or award from the NLG. Their receipt is not acknowledged, months go by and one reads the result in *World Coin News*. No doubt after a few more months it will appear (along side this?) in the *NLG Newsletter*. For two years we have received no mention, but whilst congratulating the winner, it would be nice to know what the competition was. Every year there must be many first class entries. Could it not be announced along the lines of "For the auction catalogue



category we received 46 entries from 6 countries. The judges noted that 3 catalogues were specifically for War Medals (Civil War Tokens), etc.), and were out on a limb. One of these gets a special mention." Even a simple list of entries would be of benefit, for then members could see who amongst them feels that they are producing the quality catalogues. The Bash would then serve a wider purpose, and instead of simply patting the winner on the back, could use its powers to improve the overall standard of auction catalogues world wide, reminding people that a catalogue is an aid to selling, not loft insulation. It is not a question of using the most words, filling the largest number of pages and having the most colour plates and illustrations.

Let us work together to get the "Literature" back in our catalogues.

Daniel Fearon is Managing Director of Glendining's, the well known London coin auctioneer. It is affiliated to Phillips, the fine arts auctioneer founded in 1796.

Nota Vitiensis

By Kerry Rodgers

I write this bent and bowed over the keyboard. Three days of frantic activity in the bowels

Fiji Story (Continued)

of the Reserve Bank of Fiji has come close to my undoing. I am hopeful that a night's rest and a day of indolence on the morrow may restore me, but for the present I am drained.

It started all too few days ago. Carol and I had come to sunny Suva to find it wet. We were engaged in bibliographic work related to our respective occupations of information technologist and mineralogist. Despite work's propensity to interfere with numismatics, our jobs had brought us to Fiji where we intended to combine business with the pleasure of

becoming the first "outsiders" to broach the *sancta sanctorum* of the archives of the Reserve Bank of Fiji. Moreover, our short stay was intended to give us our first look at Fiji and its numismatics since 1988. We were interested to see what might be new now that some degree of normalcy had settled back into everyday life in the aftermath of the two 1987 coups.

The general weirdness of international airline rules and regulations concerning discounted airfares meant that at best we could finagle only ten working days -- and that from the most expensive of the discounted fares.

As in previous trips we stayed at Suva Apartments. They are cheap and centrally located 'twixt our University of the South Pacific (USP) base and downtown Suva. However,

you-se-gets-wats-you-se-pays-for and the first night of residence was given over to mounting phase one of a cockroach management pogrom developed from previous tropical experiences. The evening's body count was satisfying and I confess to savoring a triumphant euphoria when two belly-up granddaddy roaches greeted my waking gaze next morn.

Our first purchases showed that despite Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II having achieved constitutional nullity following adoption of Fiji's new constitution in 1990, her effigy smiles benignly still from coin and note. New coins dated 1990 carry her pic, and rumor has it that she will continue to grace a new note series to be released in September. A further rumor has it that she was royally amused when informed of the proposed new designs.

And so it rained...right through

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GOL

FIJI *An Untold Tale*

(continued from prior page)

days of bibliographising and lecturing the academia of USP on the joys of laser Raman spectroscopy. At last with the sun beaming in sky and heart, we turned our gaze upon the vaults of the Reserve Bank.

Knowing the capricious Pacific-way of doing things, we had written well in advance and had obtained all necessary permission to peruse the archival files. We had told all and sundry when we were likely to arrive and we took the added precaution of ringing upon our arrival in Suva. Nevertheless, the staff assigned to assist us were at a loss when we announced our intention of arriving on their door step on Monday morn. We were no more than being pragmatic in this; a foot in the door is better than the cold comfort of an expected phone call. And so we duly arrived: laptop computer swinging on one arm, camera gear on t'other, Carol Christmas-treed with pads, pens and pencils.

But we did not get the open sesame into Ali Baba's cave that day. We did, however, broach the Bank's library and we did set up definite arrangements for Wednesday. We were delighted to meet the grand old man of Fiji currency and banking, David Barnes.

David has been in the country fifty years, arriving with the

New Zealand Forces in the early days of WWII.

He rose to become General Manager of the Central Monetary Authority, the post-independence pre-cursor of the Reserve Bank. His signature has appeared on more Fijian paper money than any other.

He was pleased to see us, but cautious about two such unknown quantities probing the inner secrets of his beloved Bank's records. We appreciated this and were glad that we had got the thumbs up before coming. He fed us some choice tidbits and we left to use Tuesday to finish up as USP.

And so Wednesday dawned. Past Pacific experiences led us to be somewhat pragmatic as to what we might find at the Bank. We hoped for a lot but appreciated that our plans might all too easily come unstuck.

E l e n o a Devogreeted u s a n d showed us to a desk immediately behind the tellers, and from which a clerk had been evicted. The first box trundled up. The files spanning eighty odd years are now stored in five plywood boxes bound with galvanized bands. The boxes measure about 1 x 0.5 x 0.5 meters. They were massive...and heavy. A suitably massive Fijian bounced the first onto the floor and we started in.



Somewhere in the next few days we were to come across an impassioned cry from the heart written in 1948. The Accountant-General of the time told of long and frustrating hours spent trying to address questions posed by a Government auditor concerning war time finances. He described the files of these years as chaotic and the situation nigh impossible to redress. So it was that we found these same files - one of our primary targets.

To a large extent these were the working files of the Currency Commissioners and their staff. Along with them are systematic minute books and detailed records of investments and destruction of mutilated notes. However, it was among the working file that we found the gems of information which we knew would delight students of numismatic history. It was these files that proved all too incomplete and which had been organized in a dozen different ways according to the whim of the incumbent clerk or commissioner.

Very early on in this first box it became obvious that we could do little more than make some intuitive lucky dips. By the end of our stay it was equally obvious that much more of the story of Fiji's colonial numismatics is locked up in the files of the Colonial Secretary, buried deep in the Archives of the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, now some

FLJI (Continued)

where in London. We wish well, any who might attempt that Everest of research.

And so the first morning came to pass. Carol got locked into World War II emergency issues. No story was complete but we learned much that was new of the locally printed 1/-, 2/- and 1d emergency notes as well as the overprinted RBNZ issues. We can lay several myths. *All notes and coins* ever ordered by the Commissioners during World War II, finally made it to the colony. None were lost as the result of enemy or any other sort of action. Sure some "over carried" and made it to the front line in the New Hebrides, and one lot of pennies and halfpennies were sunk, but all, every last brass farthing, finally beached itself in Fiji.

Many files we saw are in bad need of some loving curating and archiving. One file was suffering an advanced case of damp rot. As I extracted figures from its fragments I ruminated that I might be the last person to ever use it. Its case for archival care was urgent.

We adjourned at 12.30 for a meal at the adjacent Hare Krishna vegetarian restaurant. I gave Carol a rapid résumé of published knowledge concerning WWII RBNZ overprints. Her head was swimming. Mixed with the facts of what happened were all the facts of what didn't happen - the considered possibilities. It would have been easier if the WWII files were in chronological order but such was not to be and the chase was made all the more challenging.

We returned. I sidetracked into reviewing the complete record of the post-war, pre-decimal Elizabeth II note issues. The reason for the two different £20 became apparent and I managed to extract a full set of serial

numbers spanning the 1953-1969 issues.

By 4.30 we were rapidly becoming brain-dead. We staggered forth. Six hours had passed with but a Hare Krishna curry between us. Carol took advantage of my weakened state to steer me to *Tiki Togs*, arguably the choicest boutique in Suva for some therapeutic shopping. She emerged in a stunning aqua three-piece outfit.

We were scheduled to dine this evening with the Director of Planning of the South Pacific Forum. It was a pleasant evening; curry again. Garry was happy to do much of the talking and eventually took us home c. 10.30 p.m.

Wednesday night must be party time in Suva and in Suva Apartments in particular. Maybe our senses were

delighted by our research. Maybe our heads were buzzing with all we had assimilated. But maybe there were just a lot of noisy, boozed party people out and about that night. As a counterpoint, an Assembly of God choir in the vicinity deemed it proper to conduct a late night practice, and every guard dog in the area, and there are at least one for every house, asserted their lupine ancestry twixt midnight and 3.00 a.m. Carol tells me she went to sleep about 4.00 and spent much of the night laying a hex on me for daring to snatch packages of shut-eye between the coming and going of Apartment residents.

Thursday morning was rough. We made it to the bank only after several black coffees and cappuccinos. The staff were pleased to see us and we provided shortbread for morning tea. We were slow to get up to speed and Carol was particularly vindictive in squashing silver fish. What we were looking for wasn't inclined to spring

from the files as it had the previous day. Yet slowly WWII was laid to rest. Queen Elizabeth was completed as best we could and attention given to her dad.

George VI's story is far from complete. Much of our time was now spent in turning over file page upon file page for nil return. After three hours we called a break and despite reservations about the generous meal helpings, opted for another Hare Krishna delight. I can recommend sparsely curried okra; akin to zucchini but less bland.

We returned fairly promptly about 2.00 and did but ninety minutes before prudently returning to the Apartments and crashing. Tiredness and mental exertion combined to put us out cold for nine hours, guard dogs notwithstanding. The files that afternoon had been particularly frustrating.

Friday morn saw more of a spring in our step. We had disposed of three boxes. Two to go. We were well aware that a proper digestion of the contents could take months. The entire files needed ordering and sorting. But progress was being made and so we started on box 4.

By lunch Carol had scored with details of the introduction of Z/1 replacement notes in the second De La Rue printing of Fijian decimal. We had plucked out part of a tale of a probably deliberate color variety among the Fijian decimal series. And it was becoming clear that Fiji's first ever note issue was numbered and dated in large part in Suva. However, much of this day was given over to a long sterile slog through files that contained little of interest.

There were bright spots such as when an unknown date among the pre-decimals was found and the occasional set of invoices would add another set of pre-decimal serials. We became excited by the worst case of book worm damage it has been our misfortune to see, and I had to be restrained from turning cartwheels when I found a specimen note of an



unknown issue that was not meant to be among these papers. The Bank's Librarian, Lily Wong, was grateful.

After lunch we cleaned up the last box and then requested one of the boxes we had been through be returned. The story covering the second colonial £sd issues of 1933 was anything but complete; full of holes. But we were now far more familiar with the files and we found odds and ends that helped put together the essentials, albeit still incomplete.

At 3.30 we finally packed it in. Can't remember too much of last night, but I know I'm paying for it today. Haven't worked so intensively for so long. We keep forgetting just how much the heat and the humidity sap us. We've indulged in this frantic sort of activity before in the tropics and spend some days recovering. We, that's what I'm about to do ... go and recover. And as to buying Fijian notes ... that's another story.

Canals

By Martha Stevenson, NLG

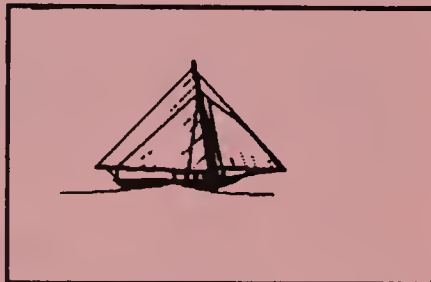
From the beginning of American history, explorers, traders and businessmen used natural water-ways for vital transportation and commercial gain. People, livestock, grain, lumber and furs were shipped by boat to their destinations.

In 1818, a journey to the Illinois country in the far west was usually made down the Ohio River. It followed a general westward direction along the southern border of Ohio and Indiana until it reached Illinois. From there it turned abruptly south to pass around the Ozark uplift in southern Illinois.

Situated at the southern

bend was the principal port of entry to Illinois, the village of Shawneetown. Here many immigrants left the slowly moving flat-boats to cross over to the settlements in western Illinois and Missouri. Although their chief occupation was in the salt-trade, a few Shawneetown pioneers became prosperous bank merchants.

One
such
pion
eer
was
John



Marshall. After coming to Shawneetown in 1804, Marshall founded the first bank in Illinois on December 26, 1816. Since ready money was scarce in the new country, the charter provided that the Bank of Illinois might begin business as soon as \$50,000 had been subscribed and \$10,000 paid in. The Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown issued paper money in amounts of \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00 and \$5.00. Later issues included \$10.00, \$20.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 denominations. The life of the charter was twenty-five years.

Another successful Illinois charter went to a group of businessmen in Edwardsville, Illinois, headed by Ninian Edwards and Benjamin Stephenson. Chartered on January 9, 1818, the Bank of Edwardsville had provisions similar to the Bank of Illinois. The first installment of the capital

amounting to \$30,000 was quickly paid in and the bank opened for business. It issued paper money in denominations of 25 cents, 50 cents, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 and a "Post Note" where the value was written in. These notes were nicely engraved by a very prestigious printing company who took pride in their designs of paper money. However, both the Bank of Illinois and the Bank of Edwardsville suffered serious financial setbacks, and through the political maneuverings of Ninian Edwards, both banks were made federal depositories for money received from the sale of public lands.

The colonists were the first people to issue paper money in the United States. On February 3, 1690, Massachusetts established a provincial bank and issued paper money in denominations from two shillings to five pounds to pay soldiers who served in the war with Quebec. Out of a dire need, the colonists issued bills of credit (promissory notes) -- the first paper money in American and the entire British Empire. Other colonists printed their own paper money during this period. These notes circulated freely and were even torn into pieces to make change.

Various types of paper money circulated in the colonies in the early 1700's. Some of this paper money was in the form of colonial notes

CANALS (Continued)

(bills of credit) issued by the individual colonies. After 1730 a number of land banks were established and issued currency secured by real estate.

In 1781, the Bank of North America in Philadelphia received its charter from Congress and began issuing currency in the form of bank notes which became the "currency of the day." These bank notes and bills of credit were the best means of exchange since coins were not struck at the Philadelphia Mint until 1793.

As banking grew in Illinois, usually in strategic areas near homes, schools and businesses, so did the ambitions of its settlers. Spurred by commercial growth and individual gain, men began to dream of a great transportation system of waterways cutting across the entire continent.

In particular, an enterprise of man-made water-way or canals, connecting the Mississippi River to the Great Lakes in the north and the Gulf of Mexico in the south could provide new opportunities for travel and colonization. The idea mushroomed, and by the time America progressed deep into the nineteenth century, canal-building exploded.

The suggestion for a north-south canal project actually came long before the nineteenth century. In 1673, Canadian explorer M. Louis

Joliet is credited with being the first to suggest this north-south canal project to the French Government in Canada after a canoe expedition with Father Jacques Marquette to the mouth of the Mississippi River. But for more than one hundred and thirty years the idea laid dormant.

The ensuing progress of increased civilization in America demanded attention to the proposed artificial waterway. Dubbed the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the project became a viable concern for public prints and local legislators. In 1810, history credits New York Congressman Peter H. Porter for voicing the canal scheme to the Government. But there the matter rested for four years until the 1814 inaugural of President Madison. In the *Niles Register* of August 6, 1814, he states, "By the Illinois River it is probably that Buffalo, in New York, may be united with New Orleans by inland navigation through Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, and down that river to the Mississippi."

However, the government took two years to secure the land covering the navigable route to the Illinois and Des Plaines Rivers, the future route of the canal. By treaty in St. Louis on August 24, 1816, the Pottawatomie Indians relinquished their title to this necessary strip of land from Ottawa to Chicago.

In September following the signing of the treaty, the first scientific explorer of the future canal route described his journey in a small keel boat as "leading through a savage and roadless wilderness, via Fort Clark, and the valley of the Illinois River, to Lake Michigan."

Two years later, when the State of Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818, Governor Bond proposed a preliminary survey along the route of lands obtained from the Indians. After appropriating \$10,000 for the surveys, the National Government on March 30, 1822, granted Illinois permission to cut a canal through the public lands. In addition, the Government donated ninety feet on each side of the canal with the proviso that "the State shall permit all articles belonging to the United States, or to any person in their employ, to pass toll-free forever." Bond's successor Governor Coles favored such an arrangement. He proposed a number of plans to build capital for the Illinois and Michigan Canal. In addition, the House authorized him to engage in a feasibility study of a canal through the portage of Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, and allowed for a national committee of commissioners on internal improvements to address the practicability of a canal.

On February 14, 1823, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill enabling a panel of commissioners comprised of Emanuel J. West, Erastus Brown, Theophilus W. Smith, Thomas Sloo, Jr., and Samuel Alexander to survey the canal route between the navigable waters of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. But it wasn't until January 1825 that the commissioners made their report to the Legislature and President Adams. Their recommendations indicated a plan of construction similar to the New York and Erie Canal which began construction on July 4, 1817.

Authorized on April 5, 1817, the 360 mile long canal measured 40 feet wide at the top, 28 feet wide at the bottom, and 4 feet deep. Connecting the waters of Lake Erie at Buffalo with the waters of the Hudson at Albany, New York, the Erie Canal opened in 1825 linking the Eastern Seaboard to the Middle West.

On January 17, 1825, after hearing the commission's report, the General Assembly passed an act to incorporate the Illinois and Michigan Canal Company, placing stock at one million dollars. The association didn't succeed, however, and the Illinois and Michigan Canal Company Act was annulled. This precipitated the Governor to apply for a grant of land "equal to one-half of five sections in width, on each side of the

proposed route, each alternate section being reserved to the United States." Congress granted his request on March 2, 1827, making the canal an eventuality.

However, from 1825 through March 1, 1833, despite the efforts made by the General Assembly, the Illinois and Michigan Canal project never took off. Commissioners finally made provisions to turn over their papers and funds to the State of Illinois.

Thus matters stood when Abraham Lincoln claimed his seat in the General Assembly at Vandalia on December 1, 1834. He had followed the Illinois and Michigan Canal progress and problems for some time and had made some mental notes of his own. Late upon the afternoon of February 3, 1835, the bill for the construction of the canal once again came before the House after being laid aside for a while. Lincoln suggested reducing the number of Canal commissioners from five to three. This change received approval, but a later amendment reversed the decision. The entire bill reached the House on Monday, February 9, 1835. Lincoln appeared on that date and on the following day received reappointment by the Speaker of the Committee on Public Accounts and Expenditures.

In 1834, Joseph Duncan, who had worked for the Illinois and Michigan Canal while in

Congress, became Governor and immediately announced that in his view Chicago offered great advantages for canal building. He also told the legislature that he thought the canal should be large enough to accommodate steamboats! Sadly, though, he reported that the effort to sell stock in the Canal or obtain a loan had "entirely failed."

However, "in his campaign for the canal he was actively assisted by a young Whig representative in the State Assembly -- Abraham Lincoln. Duncan marshalled his forces, and on Independence Day, 1836, the little known town of Chicago with a population of about four thousand people celebrated noisily the first spade of earth turned for the new Illinois and Michigan Canal."

From miles around people came to watch the spectacle. Many cannons boomed and horse pistols were fired while the townspeople crowded in to three boats which slowly moved up the Chicago river to where Archer Avenue crosses Ashland Avenue today. This was not too far from the place where Father Marquette passed his first terrible winter. Total exports of Chicago did not amount to much, but the engineers were saying that it would cost about \$8,000,000 to dig the canal and clear the Chicago River. But in the impoverished little town no one seemed to care. The

Illinois and Michigan Canal was long overdue.

Representative Lincoln was an avid reader of the Chicago American newspaper and eagerly scanned it for details of the gala celebration had at Canal Port near Chicago on July 4, 1836. On that date at 11 AM, the Steamboat Chicago, the Schooners Sea Serpent and Llewellyn, and canal boats drawn by horses proceeded up the Chicago River. At Canal Port, these vessels opened up the gates and the passengers assembled to hear the Declaration of Independence read by Supreme Court Justice Theophilus W. Smith. Next, Dr. William B. Egan, an Irish physician of Chicago delivered the principal oration of the day. The jubilant crowd then marched to the spot where the Canal excavation would be launched, and there Colonel Archer broke ground for the initial construction. It had been a beautiful day filled with good food and music. Not too long after this festive day many lots were sold at greatly inflated prices which benefitted the improvement program in Illinois.

This story on the Illinois and Michigan Canal presents an interesting peek into history for numismatists everywhere.

Martha Stevenson is a long-time member and supporter of the NLG and a frequent contributor to many publications.

How to Approach Book Publishers:

Creating Winning Proposals

By Bill Corsa
and Peter Sherred

If you want your book published, you must be more than a writer

You're a writer. You make your living reporting, freelancing for magazines, contributing creative wordsmithing to catalogs, and writing ad copy. You have a concept that would make a great book. What to do? There are many options -- including self publishing -- but that is another article. Let's assume you'd like your book published by one of the big multinational publishing companies. It stands to reason that the

more you know about the publishing community -- how it is changing, and how to deal with it -- the more options you'll have. What follows is a quick, concise, surface scratching sketch of the current book publishing scene, and a few ways you might attack it.

What the big publishers are publishing

(Where the big money goes)

Contemporary book publishing is strictly business. BIG business. Originally there were

may small, special interest publishing companies. The majority of these have been absorbed by a few huge publishing conglomerates that now have lots of small imprints. The focus of these multinationals is high profit, trendy, "in the news" topics. Bantam, (a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc., owned by international giant Bertelsmann) will pay General "Stormin" Norman Schwarzkopf close to \$6 million for his autobiography. Before Desert Storm, the General would not have been able to get Linda Grey (Bantam's Publisher) to "do lunch." There are no less than 46 different books about Desert Storm on the shelves as of this writing with a dozen more to come in the next few months. Trendy, trendy, trendy.

What else commands big money? Celebrity and 'formula' writers that publishers can count on to have a loyal readership -- even when the book might not be a critical masterpiece -- Stephen King, Kitty Kelly, Barbara Cartland, Clavel, Robbins, etc.

IF IT'S NOT A STAPLE,

A HOOK HELPS

Self help books, biographies, exposés, cookbooks, diet and fitness books abound. The trade paperback bestseller lists are occupied by cat cartoon books and diet fads. Pocket size paperbacks are dominated by genre titles in romance,



Books & Proposals (cont'd)

"true crime" and other formula subjects. Nonfiction category publishing is as popular as it always was. The choice of subject is the author's prerogative, but intertwining one of these publishing "staples" with your topic will sometimes yield a winning idea. *THE ST. GAUDENS DIET: Slimming Down for Profit With the American Eagle might be a bit extreme, but the point has been well illustrated in The Numismatist recently, with articles about coins in tv show plots. Think in a broad perspective. You are writing about money, and a great many people like to read about money.*

All this said, should numismatic writers be encouraged to make book proposals to the trendy, formula focused publishing conglomerates? The answer is a big bold type YES. Underline and add italics for emphasis. YES. But don't waste your time, do it correctly. It is futile to send a manuscript unsolicited to publishers. Whether you choose to make solicitations yourself or use an agent (who will take 15% of any success), you must first create an acceptable proposal (or have one created for you), and carefully direct it to the most appropriate editor and house.

A POLISHED BOOK PROPOSAL

We suggest authors carefully create a proposal, or work with

an agent to create one. A proposal has a 100% better chance of being read than a draft manuscript. Your proposal **must demonstrate to a publisher that your book has a market and will make money.** In many ways it is similar to a business plan -- you want the publisher to invest in your book. The proposal has two basic objectives: to sell the editor on your topic and writing ability, and to convince him that his company can publish your book profitably. A proposal should include a cover letter, introduction, a chapter by chapter outline of the entire text, a sample chapter (in some cases two), and a short author bio.

The cover letter introduces the target editor to your topic and gets his interest -

A Picasso in the Boston Museum of Fine Art was recently exposed as a forgery, costing the museum \$3.9 million. But the work of art that has been the target of the most attempted forgeries in not a Picasso or even a Rembrandt -- it is the United States twenty dollar bill."

The cover letter asks for a quick read of the proposal, and offers to send more material on an indication by the editor of interest in the project. If you don't use an agent you must also explain why you chose the company and that particular editor (maybe they've done similar books or

something you admired). It is tricky, but you should try to capsule the "hook" for your book into one of two sentences and fit it into the cover letter after asking for a quick read -- *...I've enclosed a three page summary and one sample chapter of ILLEGAL ARTISTS: COUNTERFEITERS AND THEIR CAPTURE, a thorough history of the crimilas, the Treasury department investigators and current countermeasures..."*

You get the idea. The introduction explains the concept (history of counterfeiting), projected length (be as accurate as possible), extent of illustration (approximate number and type), why you are suited to write it (knowledge and experience), selling handle (broad interest in crime and money), and commercial potential (true crime is 'hot' for book sales, magazine serializations, etc.). If there is competition for the proposed book, you must mention the key competitors, and note how your book will be better.

The chapter by chapter outline should be concise. For a book like 'Counterfeit' you should have a list of characters and a chronology right up front. One of two paragraphs for each chapter noting the characters and the key events that take place is enough. Each chapter, in order, to the end. This is essentially an outline for your book, and will help you to better organize your thoughts and events. It

will also prove invaluable in the writing and editing process. [Writing from an outline (or doing a second draft) results in more crisp and much better organized writing. It also helps to write on a computer in a simple word processing program. It makes editing and improving the work so much easier, and most publishers will ask that you submit a disk with a hard copy of your manuscript.]

The sample chapter is to showcase writing talent. You must work hard on this. This one chapter will be used to judge both your writing skill and the content and quality of the subject you propose. It should be in final draft, as polished as it can be as a stand alone chapter. Think of the chapter that might be excerpted by a magazine and use that chapter. It is important that the chapter be properly typed and double spaced with wide margins.

The short bio is necessary as a separate item if you have previous writing credits, etc. You do not need to note where you went to high school, but include items that relate to your suitability to author the proposed book.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT

Please remember, these suggestions apply in the main to the large trade publishers. They do not know your subject or market as well as you do.

You must make them see that they can successfully publish your book. Nothing new here, and nothing complex -- simply organization and form. It is all fairly obvious and rudimentary, yet very few proposals arrive at an editor's desk in a format easy to judge. Since submission guidelines vary from company to company, and even by type of book, it would be worthwhile to discuss specific projects with an agent or the author's guild. For more in depth information, we recommend a superb series of books for writers published by Writer's Digest Books. Of course, if you plan to self publish, you can bypass all of this in favor of financing, production, warehousing, billing, shipping, publicity, sales, and collections. Sometimes that is easier than convincing a trade publisher to publish your book!

SUGGESTED REFERENCE:

How To Write a Book Proposal by M. Larsen
Writer's Digest Books 1985
(0-89879-171-5)

How To Bulletproof Your Manuscript by B. Henderson
Writer's Digest Books 1986

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Back issues of the NLG Newsletter available at \$25 per copy from:

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Editor's Notebook

By DAVID L. GANZ

This is the first edition of the NLG Newsletter since the ANA convention in Orlando, Florida. We had planned an issue in the late summer, but held back so that we could announce the winners of the writer's competition. We expect another issue to come out before the end of the year, and to maintain a quarterly schedule this year. We still need your support. That means an article, or a column, or whatever -- just write it and send it to us... preferably with a disc.

The slaves at the typewriter (Barbara Parrotto and I) appreciate a clean manuscript on disc most of all, since we still don't have a scanner for your written copy. We also need advertising. The contracts from last year are still out there and haven't been renewed in some cases. That's too bad, because the audience here -- while small -- is highly influential.

When you use something from the NLG Newsletter please give us a credit line or a "plug" -- that's how potential advertisers know that we are here, and that our charges are worthwhile. (We charge a whopping \$397 a year or the equivalent of \$100 an issue) for a half page (our preferred size), or \$1,000 a year for four issues, full page (our not-preferred size).

The newsletter doesn't operate at a profit; the quality is high. Where else, really, can you get so many highly qualified writers to provide insight... and not get paid for it?

Thanks to all of our contributors. There were two people who didn't attend the Bash this year that were especially surprised. One of them was at the convention -- Steve Bobbitt, ANA's PR guru -- the other Barbara Parrotto, executive assistant and secretary to my law firm in real life, and production honcho of NLG Newsletter in her spare time. Both received NLG Awards -- and each separately expressed their thanks to the membership for the recognition. For reasons that are not entirely clear, I have agreed to edit this journal for another year. It's sort of fun... like a stomach ache every third month.

Actually, before you know it, it will be time to submit articles to the NLG competition, again. Perhaps we ought to have a new rule: if you don't submit something to the newsletter at least once in two years, you can't apply. That's not the rules--just a hint. Please: it's your newsletter.

Help make it work by giving us articles and submissions. You'll like it better, too.

Just for the politics of it, NLG has written to the three presidential candidates, President Bush, Governor Clinton and H. Ross Perot to inquire as to what they think about coinage redesign. If we get a response, you'll read it here first.

1992 NLG Awards

CLASS I - BOOKS

1. **BOOK OF THE YEAR:** work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics.
Commemorative Coins of the United States, a Complete Encyclopedia, by Q. David Bowers.
2. **BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK IN:**
 - a United States Coins *The Cent Book 1816-1839* by John D. Wright
 - b World Coins *Standard Catalog of World Coins, Delux ANA Centennial Edition* Colin Bruce II, editor.
 - c U.S. Paper Money *Confederate States Paper Money (7th ed)* by Arlie Slabaugh
 - d World paper money No award.
 - e Tokens & Medals *Canadian Welcome Home Medals 1899-1945*, by George A. Brown.
 - f Numismatic Investments *The Official Price Guide to Minting Varieties & Errors*, by Alan Herbert
 - g Museum & Exhibition Catalogs No award

CLASS II - A U.S. COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

3. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES**
 - a Coins Arlyn Sieber, "Are Modern Commems a Ripoff", *Coins Magazine*
 - b Tokens & Medals R.W. Julian, "Hard Times Tokens", *COINage Magazine*
 - c Paper Money Fred Schwan, "In Honor of those who Served," *Coins Magazine*
4. **BEST COLUMN -** "My Two Cents Worth," Ed Reiter, *COINage*
5. **BEST ISSUE -** *COINage*, August 1991 ("100 Years of Coin Collecting") James L. Miller, Publisher

CLASS II - B WORLD COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

6. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES**
 - a Coins John S. Davenport, "Fortunes of Este Family Reflected in Coin Issues," *World Coin News*.
 - b Tokens & Medals Marvin Tameanko, "Indian-Type Denarii of Tiberius," *The Celator*
 - c Paper Money No award.
7. **BEST COLUMN -** "What's Old", Harlan J. Berk, *World Coin News*
8. **BEST ISSUE -** *World Coin News*, March 16, 1992 (Chicago International Coin Fair Issue), David C. Harper, editor.

CLASS III - NON-PROFIT OR CLUB NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

9. **BEST ARTICLE** James A. Simek & Donald Medcalf, "The Overprinted Notes of World War II," *The Numismatist*.
10. **BEST COLUMN** "Coins and Collectors," Q. David Bowers, *The Numismatist*
11. **BEST ISSUE** *The Numismatist*, December 1991, Barbara Gregory, editor.

CLASS IV - NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

12. **Best spot news story or continuing coverage of developing story in numismatics.** -
"Omnibus Coinage Measure", by Burnett Anderson, *Numismatic News*
13. **Best article or series of articles**
 - a **Coins** Robert Van Ryzin, Burnett Anderson, Alan Herbert and R.W. Julian, "U.S. Mint, 200 Years, *Numismatic News*."
 - b **Tokens & Medals** Paul Gilkes, "Promotional Token Elicits Secret Service Scrutiny," *Coin World*.
 - c **Paper Money** Paul Gilkes, "Scrip Novel Solution to Business Slump," *Coin World*.
14. **BEST COLUMN** - William T. Gibbs, "Collector's Clearinghouse", *Coin World*
15. **BEST ISSUE** - *Coin World* August 14, 1991 ("Collecting the Next Century", Beth Deisher, editor.

CLASS V - Non-numismatic newspapers

16. **The Maurice M. Gould Memorial Award.**
Roger Boye, *The Chicago Tribune*.

CLASS VI - AUCTION CATALOGS

17. Superior Galleries, "The Ed Trompeter Collection, Part I", Feb. 25, 1992.

CLASS VII - COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS

18. **LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD** for Best Investment Newsletter. (tie)
Maurice H. Rosen, *The Rosen Numismatic Advisory*
Anthony Swiatek, *The Swiatek Numismatic Report*
19. **BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED** magazine or newspaper.
Bowers & Merena Galleries, Rare Coin Review

CLASS VIII - Best all around portfolio

20. Collection of writings and/or photographs and related items demonstrating numismatic writing ability and versatility. Robert R. Van Ryzin

CLASS IX - Best writer in NLG newsletter

21. "Confessions of a Spin Doctor", by Steve Bobbitt

CLASS X - AUDIO VISUAL

22. **RADIO.** No Award
23. **AUDIO.** No Award
24. **TELEVISION.** Best TV Report on Numismatics: "Smart Money", CNBC, Ken & Daria Dolan, hosts; Michael Fuljenz, guest.
25. **VIDEO.** Best video presentation: "Classic U.S. Gold Coins of the 20th Century," David Lisot, writer and producer.

Clement F. Bailey Memorial Award for best new writer: Eric Dingman, *Coins Magazine*

THE CLEMY AWARD

In a category of its own since 1968 is the Clemy Award. This highest honor of NLG is bestowed annually during the NLG Bash on an NLG member in recognition of **writing skill, dedication to numismatics, sense of humor and dedication to the Numismatic Literary Guild**. Nominations are submitted by members of the board to the previous year's winner, who makes the final choice

Roll of Honor-Clemy Award Winners 1968 - 1992

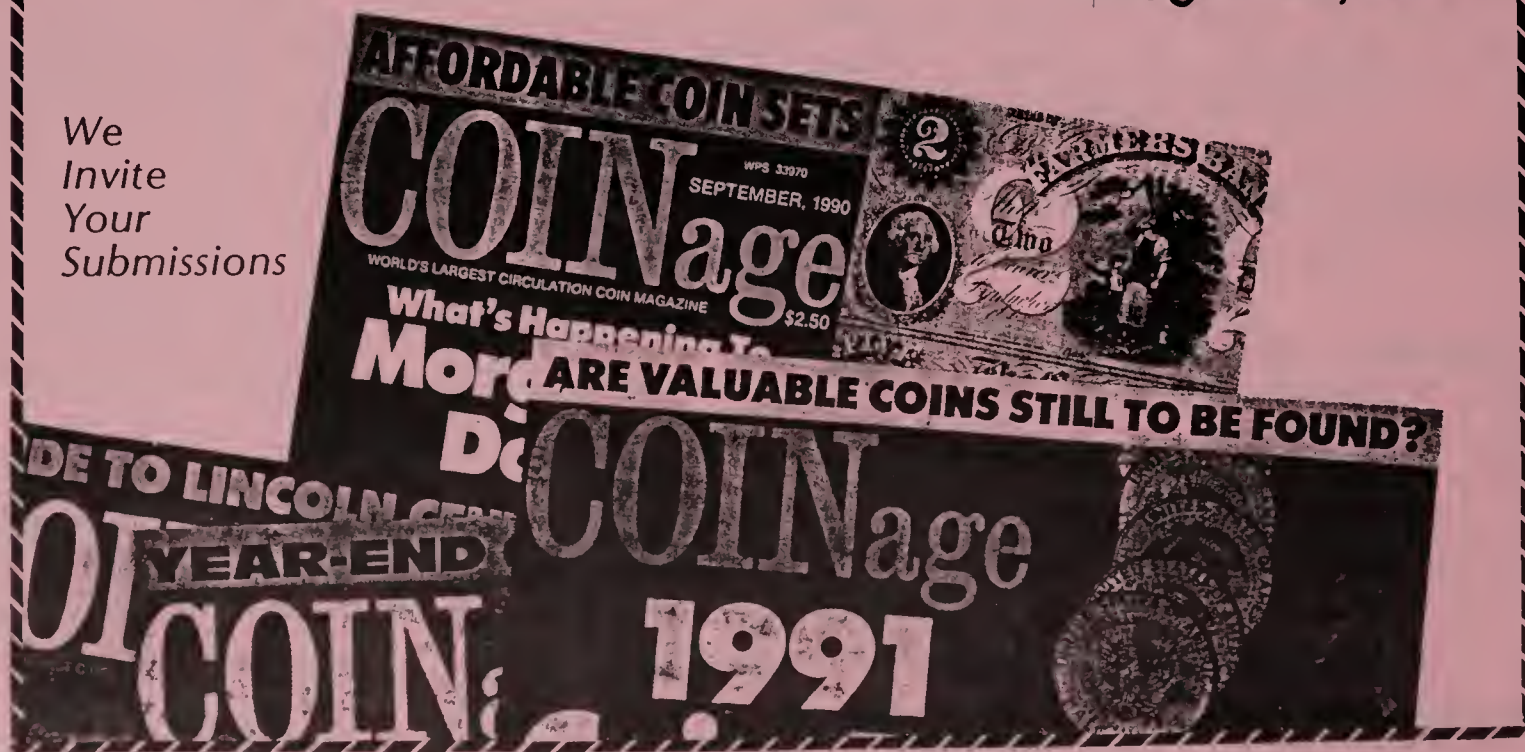
1968	Clement F. Bailey	1976	Chester L. Krause	1984	Donn Pearlman
1969	Edward C. Rochette	1977	Richard S. Yeoman	1985	Walter Breen
1970	Lee Martin	1978	Lee F Hewitt	1986	Ed Reiter
1971	Margo Russell	1979	Abe Kosoff	1987	David Alexander
1972	Virginia Culver	1980	Glenn Smedley	1988	James L. Miler
1973	Maurice M Gould	1981	Arlie Slabaugh	1989	Q. David Bowers
1974	Eva B. Adams	1982	Eric P. Newman	1990	David L. Ganz
1975	Ray Byrne	1983	Kenneth Bressett	1991	Clifford Misher

1992 R.W. Julian

We thank the members of NLG whose articles have enriched COINage magazine since 1964.

Miller
Magazines, Inc.

We
Invite
Your
Submissions



Awards for Extraordinary Merit (Books unless otherwise noted):

Dennis Gill, *The Coinage of Ethiopia, Eritrea & Italian Somalia*

John Highfill, *U.S. Silver Dollar Encyclopedia*

Scott Travers, *One Minute Coin Expert*

Jack Collins, *Washingtonia* [a fixed price list]

FUN Topics, official publication of Florida United Numismatists

Distinguished Service

Catherine Edgerton Lenker, as NLG Treasurer

David L. Ganz, as editor of *NLG Newsletter*

Barbara Parrotto, as assistant editor and production chief of *NLG Newsletter*

Appreciation for Judging Entries in Writer's Competition

Scott Travers, Coordinator

David T. Alexander

John Iddings

Donn Pearlman

Ed Quagliana


Ed Reiter

Ed Rochette

Maurice Rosen

Anthony Swiatek

CONGRATULATIONS



to the Numismatic Literary Guild for its wonderful efforts over the years in promoting numismatic writing and publishing. The term "buy the book before the coin" is certainly one of the best pieces of advice ever given.

As a leading publisher and distributor of numismatic books, we do our best to "do our bit" to help out with this important sector of our hobby.

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Memo From the Executive Director

By Ed Reiter

The show is ended, but the memories linger on.

The action on the bourse floor may have been slow, but this year's ANA convention in Orlando was a busy, upbeat time for the NLG. Our symposium was a success, our recruiting efforts were fruitful -- and judging from the feedback we received, our Bash was a smash hit.

This year's symposium focused on our annual coin writing competition. Scott A. Travers, who coordinated the contest in each of the last two years, provided valuable insights on how the entries are judged and how those who enter can improve their chances to win. Scott was joined at the podium by a number of NLG judges, among them Maurice Rosen, Margo Russell and Anthony Swiatek.

The success of the writing contest could be gauged by the broad smiles of the many winners who received their awards at the Bash. Thanks to Scott Travers' dedication, beautiful plaques -- more than 50 in all -- were ready for presentation at that time. Special awards for distinguished service went to Kay Lenker, our super-efficient treasurer; David L. Ganz, editor of our newsletter; Barbara Parrotto, Dave's hard-working, efficient assistant editor.

As always, the Bash had its lighter moments, as well. Emcee Wendell Wolka

took the Bash-goers on a trip through a numismatic version of Fantasyland, and zingers flew fast and furious as "tour guide" Wolka noted points of interest on the "bus ride." Wendell even favored us with some musical numbers this year -- parodies of Disney songs to complement my own singing tribute to the Federal Trade Commission's Phoebe Morse. Tom Lacey made his debut as a Bash participant; Paul Whitnah shared some flights of fancy (and accepted a doctored copy of *The Numismatist* bearing his photograph on the cover); and Q. David Bowers joined Scott Travers for the always popular answer-and-question routine.

New this year was a series of vocal impressions of well-known hobby personalities, rendered by yours truly with assistance from Scott Travers. To my knowledge, this good-natured tribute hasn't yet triggered any lawsuits.

David Lisot read a letter to the membership from Walter Breen. And, in the evening's highlight, last year's Clemy winner, Cliff Mishler, announced the identity of the 1992 recipient: Robert W. "Bob" Julian, a writer and researcher whose service to the hobby in general, and the Guild in particular, has been long and distinguished. Cliff selected Bob from among a group of candidates nominated by members of the NLG Board of Directors.

Speaking of the Board, we welcome two new directors with this issue of the newsletter. Actually, both are friends of long standing. Margo Russell and Dave Bowers were the two top vote-

getters in our recent election, and both will serve on the Board for the next two years. The three holdover members are Dave Harper, Bob Julian and Jim Miller.

I'm pleased to report that Dave Alexander will serve us during the coming year in a key capacity: he has agreed to coordinate special activities to mark the Guild's 25th anniversary, an occasion we will mark in 1993. Among other things, I have asked Dave to arrange for an anniversary medal. Tom DeLorey will work closely with Dave in drawing up plans for the big event and seeing them to fruition.

The Board has approved a number of new members and is currently considering additional applications. Editor Ganz advises me that space will not permit a detailed listing of names in the present newsletter, so we'll save them for the next one.

One final reminder; Dave Ganz and Barbara Parrotto have done a remarkable job of putting together -- and putting out -- the NLG Newsletter, but they need your help to continue doing so with the same frequency and quality. Please submit an article for use in a future issue. You'll be giving your fellow members food for thought and making yourself feel good in the process. There's a combination that's hard to beat!

Editor's Note

Advertising costs remain a low \$397 for four issues (½ page size) equal to \$100 an issue! Full pages remain \$1,000 a year. Send your ad today!